

2001 Farm Computer Usage

Nearly 55 percent of Wisconsin farmers own or lease a computer. Farms using computers for their farm business increased from 24 percent in 1999 to 31 percent in 2001. A total of 46 percent of Wisconsin farm operators have access to Internet, up from 33 percent two years ago. Farmers were still reluctant to use the Internet for buying supplies. Only 7 percent purchased agricultural inputs over the Internet and 6 percent conducted agricultural marketing activities on the web. Of the Wisconsin farms with Internet view, 9 percent access USDA reports and other services offered by the Government.

One-half of the U.S. farmers either own or lease a computer and 29 percent of those use one for farm business. A total of 43 percent of U.S. farms now have Internet access, compared to 29 percent in 1999. Only 6 percent of the nation's farmers are conducting sales transactions over the Internet. USDA Government programs and reports were accessed by 9 percent of U.S. farmers.



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North Central Region States	With computer access	Using computers for farm business	Using computers with Internet access	Purchase agricultural inputs over Internet	Conduct agricultural marketing activities over Internet
	Percent				
Wisconsin	61	31	46	7	6
Illinois	61	37	48	7	7
Indiana	57	28	42	4	6
Iowa	59	38	45	6	9
Kansas	58	31	39	4	4
Michigan	60	27	48	6	5
Minnesota	55	34	40	5	7
Missouri	55	30	44	3	7
Nebraska	58	36	40	4	7
North Dakota	59	38	47	5	8
Ohio	63	28	46	7	5
South Dakota	56	31	43	4	5
Total crop farms	58	33	44	6	7
Total livestock farms	59	32	43	5	6

1/Agricultural inputs include seed, fertilizer, chemicals, vet supplies, feed, machinery, replacement parts, farm supplies, office equipment, etc. 2/Agricultural marketing activities include direct sales of commodities, on-line crop and livestock auctions, on-line market advisory services, commodity price tracking, etc. Source: Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service.